

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFING AUGUST 6, 1976

NO. 7

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF DEPUTY SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS FROM PRESS AT DAILY BRIEFING FRIDAY, AUGUST 6:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS ON JULY 4-JULY 29 NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS -- WE CAN CONFIRM THAT APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF
CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS RECEIVED CLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS ON
SOVIET NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. THESE WERE INTER-AGENCY BRIEF-
INGS. (THIS CLARIFIED LATER IN ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN
TO CONFIRM THAT DEPARTMENT OF STATE DOES NOT CONDUCT BRIEF-
INGS BUT, WHEN NEEDED, MAKES INPUT. QUESTIONS ON CONGRES-
SIONAL BRIEFINGS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ERDA.)

DEPY SPOKESMAN HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER BRIEFINGS WERE
TO FULL PANELS, WHAT TYPE OF BRIEFINGS, OR AS TO PRECISE
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CONTENT OF BRIEFINGS. HE REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON REPORTED

"IRRITATION" AT REVELATION OF SOVIET BLASTS BY EVANS AND NOVAK. USG STILL DOES NOT KNOW CERTAINLY PURPOSE OF SOVIET EXPLOSIONS SINCE DATA STILL BEING EVALUATED. THIS INCLUDES QUESTION OF WHETHER EXPLOSIONS WERE PNE OR WEAPONS TESTS.

IF INDEED DATA INDICATES THAT EXPLOSIONS WERE IN EXCESS OF 150 KT, THEY WOULD SEEM TO BE IN VIOLATION OF SPIRIT OF TTB/PNE TREATY BUT CANNOT MAKE THAT STATEMENT AT THIS MOMENT BECAUSE, AS EMPHASIZED YESTERDAY, THERE HAS BEEN NO DETERMINATION AS TO YIELDS.

RETURNING TO CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS, DEPY SPOKESMAN REITERATED OBLIGATION ON PART OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO KEEP CONGRESS INFORMED OF SUCH EXPLOSIONS. IN THIS SENSE, BRIEFINGS REGARDING JULY 4-JULY 29 ROUTINE BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER DETAILED EXPLANATION ON WHEN AND HOW BRIEFINGS ARE CARRIED OUT. AGAIN, ERDA IS COMPETENT AGENCY.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTION REGARDING PRESS REPORT FROM TEHRAN THAT UPPER LIMIT WAS 200 KT AND LOWER LIMIT 100 KT, DEPY SPOKESMAN REPLIED THIS MUST BE FAIRLY INFORMED JUDGMENT AND CERTAINLY STRADDLED 150 KT FIGURE PRECISELY, AND THEREFORE CANNOT ADD TO THAT PARTICULAR JUDGMENT. DEPY SPOKESMAN ATTEMPTED TO REFUTE SEVERAL STATEMENTS THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH BRIEFERS WERE TELLING CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ONE THING WHILE ANNOUNCING TO PUBLIC ANOTHER; NAMELY, THAT THERE WAS "BAND OF UNCERTAINTY" AS TO YIELDS OF EXPLOSIONS.

(2) RIOTING IN SOUTH AFRICA -- WE REGRET VIOLENCE.

DOES VIOLENCE DEMONSTRATE NEED FOR MAJORITY RULE? -- THE SECRETARY HAS MADE CLEAR, AS HAVE OTHER OFFICIALS IN GOVERNMENT, THAT WE FEEL POLICY OF APARTHEID IS UNFORTUNATE CAN ONLY LEAD TO REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT.

DOES DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT VIOLENCE IS INEVITABLE IN SOUTH AFRICA IN ABSENCE OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT CONTRIBUTE IN EFFECT TO THIS VIOLENCE? DEPY SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT WE WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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REMISS IF WE DID NOT EXPRESS REGRET AT SUCH VIOLENCE; SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS IF WE BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO VIOLENCE OR INCREASE LIKLIHOOD OF IT. WE MADE CLEAR IN RECENT MONTHS THAT USG COMMITTED TO DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP BLACKS/WHITES FIND WAY TO COEXIST AND COOPERATE ON BASIS OF EQUALITY, DIGNITY AND, HOPEFULLY, PEACE. WHATEVER WE SAY IS WITH THAT IN MIND.

(3) JACK ANDERSON COLUMN AUGUST 4 CONCERNING USAID LIVING CONDITIONS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI -- QUARTERS FOR AID MISSION ARE COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF AMERICAN MISSION THERE AND, INDEED, TO OTHER MEMBERS OF HAITI DIPCORPS.

(4) THERE WAS LONG SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING SECRETARY'S TRIP TO DEAUVILLE; SPECIFICALLY, WHY U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS PAYING FOR "PRIVATE VISIT." DEPY SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT SECRETARY IS ON OFFICIAL TRIP ABROAD, THAT PLANE IS DROPPING HIM OFF IN DEAUVILLE, THAT THIS IS NOTHING UNUSUAL AND THAT IT IS PERFECTLY UNDERSTANDABLE WHY AN OFFICIAL USG AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED TO TRANSPORT COMMUNICATORS, SECURITY DETAIL AND PERSONAL STAFF TO LOCATION OF SECRETARY'S PRIVATE VISIT. SECRETARY MUST BE IN TOUCH CONSTANTLY WITH DEPARTMENT AND BE COMPLETELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON WORLD EVENTS EVEN ON PRIVATE VISIT AND PROBABLY SPENDS GOOD 12 HOURS A DAY WORKING ON OFFICIAL MATTERS EVEN ON SUCH A VISIT. THEREFORE, LINE OF QUESTIONING IS UNREASONABLE.

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